555 Finnish society thus presents a rare, uniform picture, and mobility within the society is greater than in any other European country. Many of the most prominent persons in public life have risen from "lowly cottages," and perhaps as many with favorable family connections have suck into oblivion. Birth, wealth and education are today not a sure guarantee [574] for success. The internal controversies in Finnish society are not economic, but political, with farmers, workers and intellectuals representing different interests; party connections may place a person in a position for which he lacks the necessary qualifications.

575 883 It is no wonder tha societies and youth organizations holding differing political views are among the most prominent in the country.

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Those with extreme right-wing sympathies, like the powerful Civil Guard and the Students' Karelian League, were abolished after the last war, and then communist organizations, hitherto prohibited, came into legal existence. The most important, as far as number of members is concerned, are certain societies with cultural and social aims. The most important youth movements, counting altogether around fifty per cent of the Finnish youth as their members, were in 1949 as follows:

	Membership
Suomen Pyhäkouluyhdistys [League of the Sunday Schools]	205,000
Finlands Svenska Ungdomsunion [Union of Swedish-speaking Youth in Finland]	130,000
Suomen Opettajain Raittiusliitto [Temperance Union of Finnish Teachers]	110,023

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Työväen Urheiluliitto nuorisojaosto [Youth Department of the Workers' Sports Society]	105,000
Suomen Nuorison Liitto [Finnish Youth League]	75,000
Suomen Voimistelu- ja Urheiluliitto [Society of Sports and Gymnastics in Finland]	
Youth departments:	
boys	50,000
girls	15,000
Maatalouskerholiitto [League of Agricultural Clubs]	55,000
Svenska Finland Idrottsförbund [Sports Society of Swedish Finland]	45,000
Partioliitto [Scout Union]	
boys	21,000
girls	15,500
Maaseudun Nuorten Liitto [Union of Rural Youth]	34,000
Poikien Keskus [Boys' Center]	34,000
Sosialidemokraattinen Työläisnuorisoliitto [Union of the Social Democratic Youth]	31,500

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Finlands Svenska Ungdomsförbund [League of the Swedish-Speaking Youth in Finland]	30,000
Kokoomuksen Nuorten Liitto [Youth League of the Coalition Party]	28,000
Suomen Nuorten Kristillinen Liitto [Christian Society of the Finnish Youth (i. e. YMCA and YWCA)]	26,000
Suomen Teiniliitto [League of the Secondary School Students]	20,000
Nuoret Kotkat [Young Eagles (communist)]	17,000

Of special interest is the Finnish Youth League which was established in 1881 to improve education and to awaken a national interest among rural youth. Now the League has 1,021 branches all over the country. The League and its subdivisions organize a varied number of activities, among which study circles,

575 acting clubs, folkdancing and gymnastics, choirs
F83 and orchestras are especially to be mentioned.

476 Co-operative movements have a very im-
241 portant place in Finnish society. According to ancient custom, the country people, after finishing the day's work in their own fields, join together to help those who are hampered by sickness or other debilitation to gather their grain or build their barns. Moreover, the farmers form co-operative units for buying machinery, for organizing the marketing of their products, etc. Some of these have dev-
[474] eloped into extremely large enterprises. In 1949 there were 5.066 co-operative units active within the farming population, with 1,020,000 members. The central organization for agricultural co-operatives is Pellervo-Seura, established in 1899.

established in 1899.

241 In agricultural politics the most important
669 organization is Maataloustuottajain Keskusliitto [Central Union for Farmers] with all its various subdivisions, the aim of which is to convince the Diet and the Government to adopt economic measures favorable to the farming population.

[471] As individual enterprise is traditionally respected in Finland, the State does not interfere much with agricultural production, however. The improvement of farming and the general living conditions in the countryside depend

241 largely upon individual initiative. To this end
●575 the farmers have established several societies; especially noticeable work in raising living standards and improving working conditions has been done by such women's organizations as the

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241 575 Martha Society and the Society of Agricultural Women.

474 443 Co-operatives have an equally important role for the consumer, as demonstrated by nearly five thousand co-operative enterprises still active in the country. Some of them have members among certain groups of the population, for example the factory workers, and thus tend to have a certain political coloring. The number of stores operated by these several central organizations is extremely large. A co-operative store is a familiar sight on the Finnish landscape.

SOURCES

113 League of Nations. Finland. European conference on rural life 1939. Geneva, 1939. Pp. 59; illus.

Mitä, missä, milloin, I, V. [What, where, when,